

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NOUAKC 01542 080951Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 MCT-01
ACDA-07 IO-13 /105 W
-----100339 080958Z /13

P R 070900Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7750
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
USMISSION USUN
CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 1542

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, MOPS, SS, MR
SUBJECT: SAHARA WATCH: WITHDRAWING POLISARIO ATTACK FORCE APPEARS TO
HAVE ESCAPED

REF: (A) NOUAKCHOTT 1524, (B) NOUAKCHOTT 1531

1. AS OF MID-DAY JULY 6, WITHDRAWING POLISARIO ATTACK FORCE APPEARS
TO HAVE ELUDED PURSUING MAURITANIAN AIR AND GROUND FORCES
AND TO HAVE REACHED RELATIVE SAFETY OF DEEP RAVINES OF GUELTA
MASSIF ON ROUTE BACK TO ITS MAIN BASE IN EASTERN SAHARA OR
SOUTH-WESTERN ALGERIA.

2. FOLLOWING ATTACK AGAINST NOUAKCHOTT ON JULY 3, POLISARIO MAIN
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BODY WITHDREW NORTHWARD TOWARD AKJOUJT (1945N/1423W) BY
EARLY MORNING JULY 4 POLISARIO HAD SUCCESSFULLY BYPASSED AKJOUJT
TO NORTHWEST AND SET OUT ON MORE NORTHERLY HEADING DIRECTLY
TOWARD OLD SPANISH SAHARA/MAURITANIAN BORDER. AT NIGHTFALL
JULY 4, MAURITANIAN AIR OBSERVERS REPORTED POLISARIO COLUMN
NEAR BORDER AREA OF TEMEIMICHET ENZARAN (2134N 1450W).
BY EARLY MORNING 5 POLISARIO WERE WELL INTO SOUTHERN

REGION OF FORMER SPANISH SAHARA. MAURITANIAN MILITARY
CONTINGENT NORMALLY GARRISONED AT AUSERT (2235N 1418W)
WHICH HAD MOVED SOUTHWARD TO ZUG (2136N 1409W) IN AN
ATTEMPT TO INTERCEPT WITHDRAWING POLISARIO FORCE WAS BYCSSED
BY POLISARIO COLUMN WITHOUT INCIDENT. AT LEYAUD (2223N 1351W)
MAURITANIAN CONTINGENT FROM ZOUERATT ENGAGED KLOLISARIO MAIN
BODY IN FIVE MINUTE EXCHANGE FO FIRE BEFORE WITHDRAWING WITH
SOME LIGHT CASUALTIES; POLISARIO FORCE THEN CONTINUED ITS
SWIFT JOURNEY NORTH INTOMOUNTAINOUS AREA ASTRIDE MOROCCAN
AND MMAURITANIAN PARTITION LINE. (FOREGOING OBTAINED FROM FRENCH
AND SPANISH MILATTS.)

3. HAVING REACHED RUGGED TERRAIN OF GUELTA MASSIF, WITH-
DRAWING POLISARIO ATTACK FORCE APPEARS TO HAVE ELUDED
PURSUING MAURITANIAN FORCES SUCESSFULLY. MOREOVER, IT
APPEARS POLISARIO PAID VERY LIGHTLY IF AT ALL FOR MAJOR
PROPAGANDA/POLITICAL COUP OF THEIR JULY 3 ATTACK ON
MAURITANIAN CAPITAL.

4. TO ADD INSULT TO INJURY OTHER POLISARIO FORCES
ON JULY 6, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF ABSENSE OF MOST
MAURITANIAN FORCES FROM THEIR USUAL STATIONS, UNDERTOOK
A COORDINATED EFFORT TO HARASS ZOUERATT, AUSERT, AND TICKLA.
ACTIONS WERE OF ONLY A FEW MINUTES DURATION AND REPORTEDLY
INVOLVED ONLY ONE OR TWO POLISARIO VEHICLES AT EACH LOCATION.
BUT IMPACT ON ALREADY NERVOUS POPULATION HAS BEEN FAR OUT
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OF PROPORTION TO RESOURCES COMMITTED.

HANDYSIDE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: GROUND COMBAT OPERATIONS, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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